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Letters to The Times

Charges on Cuba Assailed

Senator Keating Is Challenged on Sources for Data

To the Editor of The New York Times:

If you repeat a tall tale often enough, they say, eventually people will believe it. I would never have thought The New York Times editorial writer would succumb to this cynical brand of "news management," but judging from your April 29 editorial "Cloning lies," he has.

For months Senator Keating has been telling the country he possesses some independent source of information about Cuba. It is more than the product of one official Government intelligence agency. Such a claim is absurd.

In the interests of accurate reporting, then, let me try to set the record straight.

It is by no means a fact that Senator Keating is getting his information from "Government intelligence agencies." On the contrary, he has repeatedly refused to identify any of his sources. But obviously, his information is not even from Government sources because, as I pointed out, it has proved to be false. It has been neither confirmed nor denied by the intelligence agencies.

Neither the Senate nor the House has been informed of this information. It is not the duty of a Senator to keep the public in the dark about his sources. It is the duty of a Senator to keep the public informed of his sources. It is the duty of a Senator to keep the public informed of his sources. It is the duty of a Senator to keep the public informed of his sources.

Checks by U.S.

Although this matter was contrary to the usual practice of the Senate, the House and the Intelligence Committee have been kept in the dark. The Senate has been kept in the dark. The House has been kept in the dark. The Intelligence Committee has been kept in the dark. The Senate has been kept in the dark. The House has been kept in the dark. The Intelligence Committee has been kept in the dark.

It is a recurring theme of the

Oct. 10 speech indicates that his information was markedly different from the situation we actually uncovered in Cuba.

The evanescent quality of the Senator's private intelligence was

best shown by his charge made on Jan. 31 that he had "continuing, absolutely confirmed and undeniable evidence" that the "concrete" Soviet missile bases in Cuba had never been destroyed. This charge was demolished by Secretary McNamara's TV briefing. Yet even today the Senator has never told us how his "continuing, absolutely confirmed and undeniable evidence" could turn out to have been so phony.

Against such an unimpeachable background, the Senator's latest charges about new Russian troops in Cuba deserve only a "ho-hum" classification. Admittedly it is harder to be proved wrong when talking about troop strength than about unbroken concrete pads. But the burden of proof is still on the one who challenges official estimates. Having made his charges, the Senator again has run away from any honest effort to substantiate them.

No Political Motivation

Once the reasonable nature of the Keating attack on our intelligence is recognized, the problem you profess to be a top intelligence estimator reaching the President which are politically motivated and hence not "completely objective" disappears. It is hardly worthy of The Times to suggest that American intelligence is partially colored because "The major motive" of these judgments are appointees of the President's own Administration.

After all, the nation's top intelligence official, Central Intelligence Agency Director John A. McCone, is respected Republican the head of our Defense Intelligence Agency, Lieut. Gen. James C. Doolittle, a lifelong expert in his field, is devoid of any political affiliation. On the basis of their performance, these reasonable persons are pushing the idea that our estimates would be any more of a substitute for intelligence than that of a "ho-hum" chairman of the Federal Reserve Board than that of a "ho-hum" member of the House of Representatives. They have borne a reputation for publican cooperation in the past. Come as director of the

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